

WILD SWANS, Charlie Chan (Martial Music): An unlikely, but harmonic, meeting of classical music and high-tech soundscapes characterises Charlie Chan's third album.

As with her previous two albums, the fusion, difficult to accurately categorise, is ambient yet energetic.

This one also sees Chan put aside (totally unfounded) concerns about her voice for the album's highlight, Storm in a Teacup --- a beautiful ballad with Monique Brumby. 8/10



wild swans

charlie chan



review by winnie ling

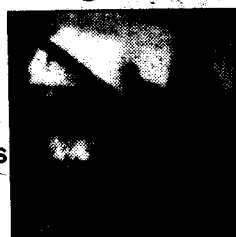
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If you're familiar with the Chinese culture or history, then you'll be familiar with 'Wild Swans'. There is a strong Oriental feeling to this disc, as the title track indicates. It contains works by the multi-talented performer, Charlie Chan, including 2 songs written by another well-known artiste and a good friend of Chan's, Monique Brumby, this 13-track album is a mixture of tradition and technology. The instruments played range from the classical grand piano to the modern-day electronic keyboard. In line with its title, 'Afriental', the opening track, presents the intrinsic elements of the safari with a touch of gentleness instead of the image of a dark forest filled with wild animals. 'Dragon's Tail' is in the likes of 'Wild Swans', with a governing Eastern and Oriental feeling, symbolising the importance of the mystical dragon in the Chinese culture. Also worth mentioning is 'I am I see', a light yet strong piece of music performed by Chan herself, clearly highlighting her distinctive and powerful vocals. Other tracks I found to be equally appealing include 'Storm in a Teacup' (performed in collaboration with Monique Brumby), 'Zebra Crossing' and 'Janeshwar'. All in all, this collection of subtle, soft and sentimental light instrumentals and music is definitely one to warm you up on a cool winter day where you'll most likely be found cuddled up with a loved one. Alternatively, it is also the perfect background music for relaxation, particularly when you're cramming for the big major exam. This third album from Charlie Chan is no doubt a very promising one.

ALBUMS

Charlie Chan
Wild Swans
Martial Music
Didn't know what to expect from the jazzy Charlie Chan, but this inoffensive and largely instrumental record is a softly

satisfying piece of experimentalism within set, more commercial boundaries. Beautiful piano melodies over trip-hop (and sometimes out there) beats reminds me of the sublime Beth Orton, mixing folk with electronica with such subtlety and grace, you could play it to your mum. ●●●●●



WILD SWANS Charlie Chan (Martial Music)

The third of our indie releases this week comes from prolific local multi-media artist Charlie Chan, whose new album *Wild Swans* is a further progression into her realm of music, where the organic origins of song, the interaction of musicians, and cultural exploration, blend seamlessly with techno elements, to create new age music with heart, soul and dedicated form. This is almost an amalgamation of the two very distinctive styles evidenced on Chan's first two album releases, with simple, improvisational pieces sitting side by side with more structured and detailed works. Here however, the performer pushes the envelope forward another few notches, incorporating more varied rhythm structures, including drum and bass, and also experimenting with more vocal incorporation, both her own, and in two vastly differing collaborations with Monique Brumby. This fresh and beautiful collection of music is the perfect soundtrack for spring. To experience the musical world of Charlie Chan, log on to her website at www.charliechan.com.au, or swans@charliechan.com.au.